

NPIC/TSSG/DED-1613-69
8 May 1969

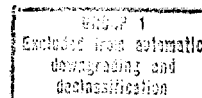
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Exchange of Info with ETL, Ft. Belvoir on Recent Contract Problems

1. On 6 May 1969, [] of ETL visited DED to discuss mutual problems with [] Messrs. [] of DED and [] of ESD participated with the undersigned.
2. Approximately six months ago ETL entered into a contract with [] Optical Systems Division's Development Projects Directorate [] for a Reconnaissance Photo Rectifier (RPR). This equipment is intended to be used to correlate controlled orthophotos with new reconnaissance imagery of higher resolution. The effect is to optically "paint" the higher quality new imagery onto a new orthophotograph. The RPR aims at using a correlation system similar to that of the Automatic Stereo Scanner, the High Precision Stereo Comparator, and the new automated Zeiss Stereo Planimat. The optics are also similar to those of the Automatic Stereo Scanner. Furthermore, the principal engineer for [] the project manager for the Automatic Stereo Scanner.
3. During a visit to [] 10 days ago by the Army project monitor, [] casually announced, as the monitor was "putting his hat on to leave," that there was going to be an overrun. Under questioning, the only justification given was that they had "under-estimated the costs"! The figures mentioned were an overrun of 25-50% on an original CPFF contract cost of [] explained that they had regarded the RPR as a near-production phase development until the initial proposals (from [] and other companies) came in at [] or more. By lowering their specs and shooting for a "prototype", ETL got the [] price from [] and initiated the contract. They now want to benefit from our experience on the Stereo Scanner.
4. Consequently, I brought [] up to date on the history of our problems with [] It looks like history may be repeating itself on their contract, and I invited him to keep the channel open between our two agencies. Our current negotiations with [] (which include a detailed Work Statement for a 15-week redesign and Optical Bench Test and a Fixed Price contract amendment for this limited optical task) may benefit from knowledge that [] might also lose the contract with ETL.

Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

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for the RPR. ETL is reviewing its requirement for the RPR and the possibility of modifying a related instrument, the Unimace, to achieve part of their RPR goal.

5. In passing, [] spoke of a "serious lens design error" by [] on a recent rectifier development and an outright case of malicious destruction on a digital mapping system, which was taken out of [] hands about five years ago.

[]
TSSG/DED/R&DB-I

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